

Appl. No. 10/766,396
Reply to Office Action of April 1, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 2002.0405/24061.486
Customer No. 42717

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 10-11 and 15-38 have been canceled, and Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 12-14 and 39 have been amended. Claims 2-7, 9, 12-14 and 39-42 are present in the application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Noted with appreciation is the indication in the Office Action that Claims 12 and 13 recite allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the limitations of Claims 1, 8 and 10 have been added to Claim 12, in order to place Claim 12 in independent form. Similarly, the limitations of Claims 1, 8, 9 and 11 have been added to Claim 13, in order to place Claim 13 in independent form. These amendments merely place Claims 12 and 13 in independent form, and do not change the scope of Claims 12 and 13. Claims 12 and 13 should now be in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-7, 9 and 14 have been amended so that they each depend from allowable Claim 12, and Claim 3 depends from Claim 2. Claims 2-7, 9 and 14 should thus be allowable with Claim 12, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Comment on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

In Section 8 of the Office Action, which bridges pages 8-9, the Examiner offers a statement of reasons why Claims 12 and 13 are considered to recite allowable subject matter. Applicants agree that Claims 12 and 13 recite allowable subject matter. However, Applicants do not agree in all respects with the statement of reasons for allowance. For example, Applicants believe that the stated reasons should not be interpreted to mean that they are the only reasons

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supporting the allowability of the claims, and that there are no other reasons that separately and independently support the allowability of the independent claims and/or the dependent claims.

Independent Claim 39

Independent Claim 39 has been amended to add limitations drawn from Claims 8, 10 and 12. Since the Office Action indicated that Claim 12 included patentable limitations, and since Claim 39 has now been amended to include those limitations from Claim 12, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 39 now recites subject matter that is patentably distinct from the prior art of record. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims

Claims 40-42 depend from Claim 39, and are also believed to be patentable over the art of record, for example for the same reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 39.

Conclusion

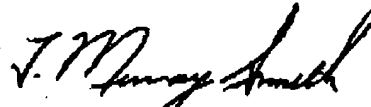
In view of the foregoing, further and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that examination of the present application may be advanced in any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at 972-739-8647.

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Although Applicants believe that no fee is due in association with the filing of this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-1394 of Haynes and Boone LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: None

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